

*NEIL
MARTIN'S
WAR
DIARY*

17 MAY 1940

-

30 SEPTEMBER 1944

Neil Martin's War Diary 17 May 1940-30 September 1944

- 17 May 40 Enlisted A.I.F. Camped at Wayville.
- 21 May 40 Transferred to 7 Div Petrol Coy. at Woodside.
- 30 May 40 Did not like Pet. Coy so transferred to 7 Div Regt as Orderly Room Cpl. Originated the Sqn. Remainder of Regt scattered throughout Eastern States.
- 5 Jul 40 Promoted A/Cpl. Enjoying myself quite well. Officers very good and appreciative of my work.
- 30 Sep 40 Moved to Rokeby. Entrained at Balhannah at 1930 hrs arrived Seymour at 1730 hrs following day. Rather good trip I had bought £30 worth of beer for the lads. Now 8 Aust Div Cav Regt. 2 Sqns S.A. two Vic. We were given four days leave for the Melbourne Cup immediately we had settled down. I only missed one winner all day. Backed second horse in cup. Won over £20 besides expenses.
- 17 Dec 40 Moved to Balcombe for summer. Sea within a mile and very nice for swimming. Had many trips to Dromana where Aunt Marion was living.
- 23 Jan 41 Trek to Cowes. Very good time had by all.
- 5 Feb 41 Trek to Sale. Visited Yallourn and given grand time. I was very impressed with the place.
- 7 Mar 41 Second trip to Sale. Had nearly reached there when orders arrived to return to camp for pre-embarkation leave. Drove all night Friday night. Paid the men and issued leave passes and had them all on the express on Saturday night. I left on Sunday and had to the 23rd.
- 25 Mar 41 Transferred to 9 Aust Div Cav Regt.
- 10 Apr 41 Entrained for Sydney, very thrilled.
- 11 Apr 41 Embarked on Ile de France. B and C Sqns in hammocks, conditions terrible, very filthy, food good.
- 12 Apr 41 Passed through Bass Strait, sighted land.
- 16 Apr 41 Anchored outside Fremantle no leave although some ships went in. Extra 700/800 men added to already cramped areas. Concerts and Pictures commenced.
- 17 Apr 41 Moved into cabin on "A" deck for remainder of voyage. 2 berth cabin. First class, bathroom, hot and cold fresh and sea-water. Ralph and Gerald Dowling, George Milne, Joe Parnell, Bill Padman, Gill Builder on board.
- 19 Apr 41 Left Fremantle. Cost of Articles on board : Beer 8d per bottle, Craven A 10d for 20, Capstan 1/8 for 50, Pipe tobacco 1/2 each 2 oz.
- 22 Apr 41 Nieu Amsterdam left convoy for Singapore, escort H.M.S. Durban, Convoy now Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, Mauretania, and Ile de France. Escort cruiser Australia.
- 23 Apr 41 Saw marvellous shooting star. Orders to alter paybooks to pay in Rupees.
- 24 Apr 41 Orders re paybooks altered. Got drunk, had altered all mine.
- 25 Apr 41 Orders to pack all gear by 1200. At 1100 orders reversed. Second issue of ship's paper. Sleeping in Beauvalais suite. At 1100 man buried from Queen Mary. All ships stopped engines. At 1400 Queen Elizabeth and Mary left for Naval Port Trincomalee to tranship. Quite glad we are staying on this ship, settling down well. Playing poker every night and good part of day and keeping myself in beer etc. Our lads in "Wet canteen" can get any amount of bottles we do not get our ration ticket marked.
- 26 Apr 41 Sighted land 1100. Ceylon at 1500 hrs. Very beautiful approach. Breakwater a credit - two entrances built entirely of stone. Granted leave Sunday and Monday. Changed all money to rupees. Rupee 1/11

- 27 Apr 41 Went ashore by ferry. Marched to Barrack Green about 2 miles. Proceeded to Fleet Club. Beer 65 cents, 50 cigarettes 90 cents. Met English sailors stationed at Colombo. Very hard to understand cockney at first. Went for Rickshaw ride through native quarter. Visited museum, very interesting curios; Buddhas, King of Kandy's throne made of gold. Good collection of dead birds and reptiles. Visited old zoo, very little left now.
- 28 Apr 41 Visited Commercial centre, hundreds of native shops jammed around European buildings. Troop Canteen very nice, all service by English ladies, all very good to us. Went to McKinnon McKenzie's. P and O agents. Met Mr Pakes, E.J. who took us home to lunch spent afternoon with Mrs Pakes who took us to Mt Lavinia and had afternoon tea and returned to ship at 1700. Mrs Pakes very interesting had lived at Bombay for 6 years. Boy of 8 Michael had just arrived from England where he had been at school. Had been bombed on way through the Mediterranean.
- 29 Apr 41 Paid lads this morning. Had worked to 0300 the night before and had risen at 0500 so very tired. Decided to take leave on Wednesday.
- 30 Apr 41 Leave as from 0800. Had breakfast at Canteen. Mrs Ridley offered her car to tour town but as we were going to Pakes had to refuse. Had lunch with them and they asked me to stay to dinner but as my application had not been approved I had to refuse. I was very disappointed as there was a party that night. Left Mr Pakes at 1015 and a man stopped us and gave us the use of his car for the remainder of the morning. We went out along the Kandy road. Very interesting to watch buffalo doing the work in the paddy fields. Returned to Parade ground at 1600 and found that leave had been granted too late for me to do anything. Majors Newton and Hancock had worked very hard to get this leave for me.
- 1 May 41 Route march through Colombo.
- 2 May 41 Another route march. Acquatanian joined convoy.
- 3 May 41 Leave granted 50%. I was not among the lucky ones.
- 4 May 41 Leave. Had good meal and several drinks. Bought dozen books for Sqn library. Rumour Queen Elizabeth and Mary had landed troops safely in Suez.
- 5 May 41 Recovered from Sunday's bout all Rupee money changed to sterling. Cigarette case stolen. I suspect the laundry boy.
- 6 May 41 0900 left Colombo. Put self on as spotter got tired of waiting for transfer from Orderly Room. Quite a good job 2-1 hrs shifts during day. 1-2 hr shift at night. 2315 cruiser shone searchlight on strange vessel. Acquitanian hooted and sent green very light - turned right. Cruiser chased vessel as would not answer signal. After we had passed ship and cruiser Acquitanian sent red very light up we returned left and resumed our course. Cruiser had caught us by 2350 hrs.
- 7 May 41 Saw whales, dolphins, flying fish, porpoise. 1500 cruiser sent aeroplane from sling.
- 9 May 41 Spotting finished, back to dammed O.R.
- 10 May 41 Leander left convoy and sank raider which had sunk an oil tanker just prior to our leaving C. Oil marks were still on the water.
- 11 May 41 Entered Red Sea. Escort remained outside, Mauretania led followed by Acquitanian and us. Passed Queen Mary 0900, Queen Elizabeth 0200 on 12. Everything packed by 1100.
- 12 May 41 Still packing - working for ride to our camp site. Very windy today good cool head wind. Bought 8 tins tobacco. Plenty of room in stationery boxes.
- 14 May 41 Arrived Tuefik 0700. Approx 80 ships in port. Very desolate country Strathallen, -eden, -more, Orient, Orontes, Paramatta (sloop), Express

- of China, Australia and India, City of Hankow, British Motorist and Somerville only a few of those recognised. Went ashore in flat bottomed barges at 1100 mounted lorries approx 1500 motored to Kantara along canal through Ismalia. Canal heavily armoured, sunken ship in canal. Crossed canal by punt at Kantara. Tea 2330 hrs. First meal since 0530. Held up by troops who had escaped from Greece and Crete. Very good meal sausages and mash.
- 15 May 41 Boarded train at 0300, left station 0450. Train must be built with three round wheels and one square. Passed through Rumani, El Arish, Gaza, Beit Jirja. Arrived camp 1230. Had lunch.
- 17 May 41 At last escaped from O.R. appointed Transport, A.A. & A.T.N.C.O.
- 19 May 41 Cpl of guard without ammo.
- 21 May 41 11 mile route march, 1hr 15 min each way through sand, no water.
- 23 May 41 Digging slit trenches, blunt picks and small shovels.
- 26 May 41 Marched to Aschelon 8 miles away through sand all way only had water bottle. 1st town ever built, now mass of ruins. Roman bath, Greek, Roman and Arab statues. Roman coffin made of lead.
- 5 Jun 41 "A" Sqn left for front, rumoured attached to "GREY" Tank Regiment.
- 6 Jun 41 Bren guns issued, Tommy guns 1 per tp. I had to overhaul them all.
- 8 Jun 41 Free French and Imperial troops enter Syria.
- 9 Jun 41 "C" Sqn left for front. To date had to check 10 carriers and 1 tk and recheck when handed to "C" Sqn.
- 12 Jun 41 Leave to Jerusalem. Trip very interesting. Very winding road across mountains. Seven hairpin bends in 200 yds. (Seven sisters) Visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (unable to see tomb of Christ as church service being held) Mount Calvary, The Stone of the Anointment, Grotto of the Crosses, Jewish Wailing Wall, Tower of David, Damascus Gate, Solomon's Quarries, Valley of Yehosaphet, Garden of Gethsemane (olive trees at least 200 B.C.) Church of all Nations (most beautiful church I have ever seen) Tomb of the Virgin Mary, (old floor discovered in 1927. Mosaic and looked like a carpet) Church and Grottoe of the Nativity. (above in brackets), British War Cemetery (signed visitors book, very well kept) Hebrew University (very modern building) Grand sights of Jerusalem, Chapel of Ascension, Valley of Hiram, Plain of Rephaim, Well of the Magi (now closed up water putrid) Rachel's tomb, Manger, David's Street, Crusader's Street in old Jerusalem (very old and narrow streets shaped in the form of a cross) Old Jerusalem is at least 100 feet below the new city. Everything is practically underground. Lunch at Piccadilly. Total cost cars, guides etc 400 mils. Went shopping then spent remainder of day at Tropical Cafe. Too tired to do anything else.
- 13 Jun 41 H.Q. Sqn left to link with "C" Sqn.
- 16 Jun 41 Radley first casualty. Shot. Travelled from Beit Jirja to Syrian border and back to Gaza. Quite a good trip if rather tiring. When I reached the Trg Regt I was held up because I did not have a G2. Notwithstanding I had just driven the length of Palestine and back that day.
- 19 Jun 41 Drove from Beit Jirja to Haifa. Grand drive through olive groves etc. Beautiful scenery. Jewesses work in fields as hard as any man dressed in very brief rompers. Some lovely legs.
- 20 Jun 41 Drove from Haifa to El Malakai. Camped on top of rise near Lake Hula Withing long range guns. Lieut Langlands killed. "A" Sqn captured A.T. gun. Received parcel from Bryan first for Regt.
- 21 Jun 41 2/2 Pioneer Bn severely battered. Sand Fly fever.

- 29 Jun 41 Moved to Ross Pinnor at bottom of Jordan Valley. Had 300 mile trip looking for starter motor for tank. No motor but found a case of West End.
- 2 Jul 41 Moved to Kuneitra thence to Moudyami. Bill Hope wounded later died. Bill Stark missing presumed dead.
- 10 Jul 41 Moved to Doumar. We started big push to Beirut gained first objective with Bingham, Samuel and Willoughby wounded. At second objective held up under gun fire for 4 hours with no way of getting out or off the road. Luckily shells were landing on other side of road. We were partially protected by a small hill. Petch, Wait and Sergeant reported killed. Their tank had burst into flames.
- 12 Jul 41 Q.M. ill so took his job. Armistice declared. Delivering rations to forward troops in the middle of the night without lights nearly struck landmine, luckily though I noticed a bit of wire across the road and got out to investigate. Had been driving along a track for about 4 miles, pitch dark very glad to finish the job.
- 13 Jul 41 First batch of magazines arrived.
- 14 Jul 41 Concentrated at Hameh. Getting plenty of beer and whisky from canteen at Damascus. It is good being away from the Regt.
- 15 Jul 41 Led Victory March from Hameh to Rayak aerodrome. Good camp, swimming pool, beer garden. Black Watch camped next to us. Had some good times.
- 16 Jul 41 Returned to Damascus with sick (58 miles) in utility. Returned fully laden with beer and whisky (What a life).
- 17 Jul 41 Petch rejoined unit. Stark, Wait and Sergeant ill in hospital. Sergeant fairly badly wounded, had lost an eye.
- 18 Jul 41 Moved to Baalbeck. Camped near swimming pool, hotel.
- 24 Jul 41 Went out on patrol. English spoken in all villages. In one a Muktah taught us how to make coffee from beans (only a 2 hour job).
- 27 Jul 41 Beyrouth on leave, went to race meeting in afternoon. All betting done by tote. When backing for a win the whole stable was included and if any horse from that stable one you collected. Consequently prices were very short. No stewards and part of the course went behind a wood. The dirty work that went on behind there is better left to the imagination. It was very rarely that a horse led going in and out of the wood. In one race three horses from one stable jumped to the lead and held it throughout, they spread over the course so that it was impossible for any horse to pass. The racing was good as all horses were pure Arabs and although the times were much slower than we were used to they were all evenly matched.
- 29 Jul 41 Returned to Acre for stores via Beyrouth 134 miles drove all day very winding track, excellent trip, marvellous scenery. Had hot shower and some very good meals in NAAFI canteen.
- 30 Jul 41 Returned from Acre. I left convoy at border and travelled via El Malakia, Merjahoun, Beyrouth. Very winding road, crossed river Litani, passed heights where 2/27 did their notorious climb and attack. Met coastal road at Sidon.
- 10 Aug 41 Bad throat and headache.
- 13 Aug 41 Bad throat still continues rash came out over body, sent to hospital. Two Majors and a Captain diagnosed Tonsillitis and had thought I had Scarlet Fever. I was on table for an hour. They were a bit bamboozled when I told them I had had my tonsils out 16 years before. Eventually classed me as nerves. Hospital very dirty, only orderlies, beds full of bugs, all temperatures taken with the same thermometer without sterilisation. Ulcers started on mouth.
- 17 Aug 41 M.O. rescued me from hospital and sent me to "The Cedars" on convalescent leave. Just lay in bed until trip could be arranged.

- 24 Aug 41 Went to "The Cedars" with George Hayes, George Lander, Jack Mawson, Killer Moar, Jack Bartley took 2 cases of beer. Very high climb over mountain range. Unfortunately all snow had melted.
- 26 Aug 41 Pinched American flag while on visit to nearby town and on our return the Officer in charge of the party told us to be careful as there were a Brigadier and 2 Colonels from the English Army staying there. As we had already let them taste some of our beer all our reply was "oh they are friends of ours". As this officer had ignored us all the time we were not very interested. Imagine his surprise when we were drinking at the bar and the three officers walked in ignored him and came over to us and stood drinking until tea time. We were very pleased. Enjoyed stay considerably and have invitation to go to a party tomorrow. Expenses only 550 mils per day. 40 mils worth 1/-.
- 27 Aug 41 Recalled to unit urgently, very disappointed.
- 30 Aug 41 Moved to "Marshall Petain" barracks to take over from Vichy French. Very filthy conditions had party of Wogs cleaning all day. Transferred to 9 Troop. Lieut Allen, Ian Marshall, Jim Winter, (my driver) Bob Sharp, Arch Tiller, Bill Barnett, Bob Masterson, Pat Ryan.
- 3 Sep 41 Cpl of Inspection guard. Not feeling good.
- 4 Sep 41 Sold blankets, palliasses and all moveables to Wogs each lad averaged approx £20/30. Unfortunately I was in bed most of the time.
- 5 Sep 41 Wog shot in head. Only way of stopping them from mobbing.
- 6 Sep 41 Wog run over by motor cycle broken leg. Feeling very weak.
- 7 Sep 41 Went to Baalbeck for a break. Looked over Temple of Baccus 750 ft square. One stone in particular 72 x 12 x 12 ft weighing approx 750 tons. Said to have been brought from Egypt. Bought fountain pen for £5 Syrian. Went to concert given by NAAFI concert party "The Barnstormers" very good.
- 8 Sep 41 Left barracks now called "Wavell" barracks for Aleppo. Mainly metal road but being bituminised. Arrived at Qoucier that night. Orders to stop for exercises until 25 Sep.
- 13 Sep 41 Went on Regtl exercise to Orontes River as Cpl Driver. Had very successful day returned at 2230 hrs.
- 21 Sep 41 Regtl sports at Lake Homs. Excellent finishes but too ill to participate.
- 25 Sep 41 Left Qoucier for Aleppo at 2335 hrs, passed through Homs looked quite a decent Wog village.
- 26 Sep 41 Passed through Hama. Prettiest beer garden I have yet seen. Country between Homs and Aleppo more improved. Huge irrigation plant north of Homs drains run for miles, country extremely well cultivated. At Rass Tane crossed river, fishing in river, building huge weir. Huge water wheel built thousands of years ago still lifts water 100 feet from river. Very pretty view looking down valley. At Hama huge water wheel covered by moss only lifts water 50 ft but had all the signs of ancient invention. While at Qoucier had 6 Div Concert Party visit. Extremely good show. Excellent string orchestral playing of Poet and Peasant. Very humorous but rather rough.
- 27 Sep 41 First severe attacks of illness.
- 30 Sep 41 Arrived Aleppo 1000 hrs proceeded to Aerodrome for temporary camp. We were to have gone to Marist Brothers college but they refused to vacate. We have barracks chosen and only waiting for Royals to vacate.
- 2 Oct 41 Going on leave to Aleppo but got too ill.
- 6 Oct 41 Evacuated to hospital with yellow jaundice. Very comfortable. English Field Ambulance. Running temp, feeling lousy unable to eat.
- 10 Oct 41 Passed out when having shower. Evacuated to Homs C.C.S. 2/2 Field Amb. on trip of 130 miles, driven by Tommies stopped several times to give cups of strong sweet tea.

- 12 Oct 41 Orderlies very poor mainly through Sgt in charge. Meal service rotten but did not affect me much. Feeling a bit better.
- 15 Oct 41 Evacuated to Damascus a distance of 103 miles to 53 General Hospital. Arrived practically unconscious and had to be put to bed.
- 16 Oct 41 Able to take more notice of surroundings. Hosp very clean, plenty of balconies. Sister in charge of each ward very good and seem to worry about each patient individually and work three times as fast as an orderly. Beginning to feel as if I would like to eat occasionally. All signs of Jaundice seem to have disappeared. Garry Goode passed through on way to be boarded for Epilepsy, he is rather unhappy at leaving unit. I don't blame him.
- 17 Oct 41 Breakfast 0500. Boarded hospital train by 0700. Travelled down Tiberius Valley to Nazareth hospital. Lunch at Harma at 1400 entered very beautiful winding valley at approx 1600 hrs. Waterfall Aust Engineers rebuilding bridge blown up by Vichy French. Several times could see end of train to one side and above us. The track was very steep and winding. Arrived at railhead 2100 hrs boarded Ambulance driven by Aussies and drove 9 miles to 9 A.G.H. 4 miles of trip was up very steep hill. Many S.A. nurses who were quite pleased to see a member of the 9 Cav of which I was the first member.
- 18 Oct 41 Not feeling too good after trip. Great treatment by Capt Donald and nurses in particular Sister James. Watched me all night when I got very ill. Bill Coster in hospital with Diptheria.
- 27 Oct 41 Feeling much better should be out soon. Started to learn Chess. Two chaps carted in suffering from Arack one dead and the other just saved. Another chap with Dip feeling rather well got up and had a pillow fight. Dead by midnight although doctors fought for hours.
- 28 Oct 41 Temp up. Bad headaches, pains in stomach.
- 2 Nov 41 Headaches still bad going to be X-rayed. First mail since leaving Regt delivered by Jack Slattery and Jim Nicol. They had called in as Regt had passed on way to Palestine. 14 letters, 14 bundles of papers and magazines and two parcels. Unfortunately I was not allowed to read.
- 4 Nov 41 Drew second horse in sweep "Son of Aurous" 600 mils for 20.
- 7 Nov 41 Many promotions, Jack Bartley R.S.M., George Lander S.S.M., Bill Stockham S.Q.M.S., Al Fraser, Bert Reilly, Ian Marshall, John King Sgts, Bert Eyre S.S.M., Den Muirhead, Maurie Tapfield comm. Had Lumbar puncture.
- 28 Nov 41 Most of Xmas parcels have arrived been playing a lot of chess and writing.
- 30 Nov 41 First day up feeling O.K.
- 8 Dec 41 America and Japan declare war.
- 9 Dec 41 Left for Con. camp Kfar Victum. Reveille 0430 arrived Haifa 0700 left by train at 0730, passed docks and a few ships. Hospital ship had gone with Garry Goode. Arrived Hadre at 0900 rang Kfar Victum for transport. Transport arrived 1030. Spent time examining flour mill run by wogs, very primitive. Women ground the flour and seived. Posted to No. 6 Coy. Routine:- Breakfast 0730, Parade 0900, Lunch 1230, Parade 1400, Tea 1700. Pictures every night. Went to see Arizona.
- 10 Dec 41 Route march - about a mile to nearest cafe, had cup of coffee and returned. In afternoon marched about 1/2 mile. Libe led lady in eve.
- 11 Dec 41 Rained during night, got slightly damp. Camped on sand. Applied for leave to Tel Aviv. Work getting rather heavy as we were making roads and football ovals. Saw "Everybody Sing" in evening.
- 12 Dec 41 "Thin Man" in evening, days much the same.

- 14 Dec 41 Went to Tel Aviv had rather a damp time (internally) met several Tommys who were in hospital with me at Nazareth. I even got their accent and in the evening was accused of being an Englishman of course a fight eventuated but no damage was done. All buildings very modern all built about 1930. Flats were the main abode.
- 16 Dec 41 Returned from Tel Aviv saw "Piccadilly Jim" in evening.
- 22 Dec 41 Evacuated to Trg Regt. Rained all day.
- 23 Dec 41 Cpl of guard on duty from 0001 to 0600.
- 24 Dec 41 Slept all day went to concert in evening. Had front row seat. Jim Davidsons show was very good and could have seen it again. Very good comedians. Rained all day and night.
- 25 Dec 41 Xmas dinner, turkey, cauliflower and boiled potatoes, all the beer I wanted. Issue of comforts. My parcel was from Mrs R.L. Parker, 18 Adelaide St, Launceston, Tas. Cake, pudding, cream, apricots, tobacco, boot polish, tooth paste, tooth brush, raisins, razor blades, chocolate. Jack Symes, Dick Blackburn, Noel Grieve, Heck Henstridge, Perc Dickenson, Roy Hardy were at Regt. The first four having just arrived from Aussy.
- 28 Dec 41 Attack of pleurisy. Off to bed.
- 1 Jan 42 Unable to go to Regt dinner.
- 7 Jan 42 Unfit to go to Regt. Shanghaied to Orderly Room I seem to be fated.
- 13 Jan 42 Went for trip to Regt. They are moving to Syria. Had good day saying goodbye to them.
- 14 Jan 42 John King passed through to the Regt I still cannot get M.O. to pass me fit.
- 19 Jan 42 Staging Camp formed and moved out. Perce Dickinson left. 300 men transferred to AASC looks like big move shortly. Leave cancelled to Cairo just when it was my turn to go.
- 26 Jan 42 Moved to Nuseirat, near showers, pictures, canteens. Went to Qastina to take Reos to 7 Div Cav.
- 30 Jan 42 Appointed O.R. Sgt Advance Party.
- 31 Jan 42 6 Div Cav arrived Qastina.
- 2 Feb 42 7 Cav marched out. Due out 12 Feb.
- 7 Feb 42 Enemy aircraft flew over camp dropped several near Gaza bridge. No Casualties.
- 8 Feb 42 Went for trip to Tel Aviv. Bought 100 cigars £5.50 P. several odds and ends.
- 9 Feb 42 Air raid planes scared off by A.A. fire.
- 12 Feb 42 Prepared to leave. Trip cancelled owing to air raids.
- 13 Feb 42 Left Nuseirat 0315. Breakfast at Gaza 0400 left Gaza 0500. Very good trip. Reached Kantara 1300 sausage and mash. Left K 1430. Saw Wairera and Itteras cross in canal. Arrived Tuefik 2000 hrs a good 1 mile march from rlwy noticed great improvement to Suez. Aerodromes, Prison Camps, plenty of Ities. Tea very poor, no tent walls, bitterly cold. Fine sight of 40 searchlights finding range on about 16 balloons around harbour.
- 17 Feb 42 Route march, rewashed socks. Only five days wear without a change. Spent night in NAAFI canteen. Bulldog beer in tins.
- 18 Feb 42 Left camp 0900 for ship. 5 mile route march. Thoroughly done at end as we were carrying all our gear. Boarded ship by 1300 hrs. Allotted to "A" deck "T" section. Hammocks, lowest deck, good washing facilities and extremely good meals. (all cooking done by English sailors) Ship - Andes - 27800 tons 0 commissioned 1939, speed 28 knots - can average 21 with ease. Carrying 3500 troop. Left 1630 hrs.

- 25 Feb 42 Met ship evidently from the Cape. Rumour leaving ship at Colombo. Playing bridge every evening. Very busy making ledger cards for pay books.
- 26 Feb 42 Should strike Colombo early morning 27 Feb. Passed islands 0700. Rumour growing steadily we are going home. Several lads caught on bet that we would not be on the ship 29 Feb.
- 27 Feb 42 Arrived Colombo 0800 hrs. Passed three other ships who started before us Durban Castle 72 hrs, Strathallen and Strathmore 24 hrs all carrying troops.
- 28 Feb 42 Off Java. Met other ships returning from J. back to C. No leave bought fruit bowls only thing possible with so much competition. Harbour full of ships. Eastern Prince, Orcades (7 Div Cav) City of Pearls, Esperance Bay, Pundit, Honduras, 4 destroyers, 3 cruisers Doryssa, Lulworth Hill.
- 1 Mar 42 Convoy of slower ships left.
- 2 Mar 42 Up anchor 1530 hrs. Orcades, Strathallen, Durban Castle with one cruiser H.M.S. Glasgow. Aussie nurses taken on board to replace Tommies. 9 A.G.H on board Strathallen. Reg Motteram, Colin Padman, George Milne.
- 4 Mar 42 Announced that we are going to Australia. Bought 500 cigarettes 16/8. Left convoy 2100 hrs. Rumour of leave when we land. Very interesting talk by Major General Wilson on the American Forces.
- 9 Mar 42 Should sight Aussie tomorrow morning.
- 10 Mar 42 Sighted Lighthouse 0800 hrs should reach Fremantle 1200 hrs. Weather fairly cool. Everyone wearing sweaters. 0930 passed Rottnest Is. Dropped anchor off Fremantle 1100 hrs. Several sharks around ship. Berthed 1900 hrs. Strict blackout. West Aussies granted 12 hrs leave. Telegrams sent to next of kin "Arrived safely in Aust, looking forward to seeing you when leave is granted" paid by Gov.
- 11 Mar 42 Left Fremantle 1230 anchored outside. Several American Submarines, Armoured trader, corvettes. Left 1900 hrs. Rumour very strong dis-embarking Adelaide.
- 12 Mar 42 Sailing 500 miles due south, extremely cold in shirts and shorts.
- 14 Mar 42 Rifles re-issued, uniforms issued.
- 15 Mar 42 Passed Kangaroo Is 0800 hrs through Backstairs Passage. Anchored Semaphore 1200. Orcades sailed out. Berthed Outer Harbour 1600 hrs. Unloaded ship ourselves. Our shift 2300 to 0100. Went out to Elder's office on wharf and rang Uncle Mac. Found that Dad was in charge of troops working at wharf.
- 16 Mar 42 Reveille 0400. Could not see Dad. Various orders about getting gear off. We finished up by carrying all we had. Dis-embarked 0900. Comforts issued as we went to Train - cigarettes, tobacco, papers, cake, minties, newspapers. When arrived in Adelaide and marching from station mother had waited to see if she could see anyone she knew. She had only just arrived in town herself. Marched down to Cathedral and then back to tram branch line at oval. Arrived billets 1400 hrs Newstead, Mr A.J. Frith. Very nice family, 2 daughters one son going to school. Maxine, Jacqueline and Desmond.
- 19 Mar 42 7 days leave granted.
- 28 Mar 42 Orders to move tomorrow. Rumour Mt Barker. Very sorry to leave.
- 29 Mar 42 Reveille 0600. Left billets 0800 marched to Railway Stn. Train left 1000 hrs. Arrived Mt Barker 1230 hrs. Marched to Billets Mr. Callaghan S.P. Bookmaker. Bit of a change from all the parties we had had at Frith's.
- 2 Apr 42 Managed to get leave to Adelaide. Took Mother and sisters to Woodvale. Not used to Gas producer.

- 3 Apr 42 Left Woodvale 0730 had good trip back to Adelaide but from Adelaide to Mt Barker choke broke and had to finish on petrol. Did not matter much as I was able to get plenty of petrol.
- 4 Apr 42 No leave for week-end. Officers went on leave.
- 5 Apr 42 Went rabbiting, caught 15 with aid of ferret. Dropped gas producer on finger.
- 6 Apr 42 Went to Adelaide in truck to acquit pay at 1700 returned to Mt Barker and then back to Adelaide in car. Returned by service car first thing in morning.
- 8 Apr 42 Finger lanced, fair amount of fluid discharged, feeling much easier.
- 20 Apr 42 Marched to Hahndorf. Billeted at Old German College. Not so hot.
- 11 Jul 42 Entrained for Balcombe 1700 hrs. Very tiring trip.
- 12 Jul 42 Arrived Balcombe 2100 hrs. In bed by 2300 hrs.
- 13 Jul 42 Orderly Room established. Night leave for only 7 O.R.'s.
- 17 Jul 42 Leave from 1510 hrs to 0900 hrs 20.
- 24 Jul 42 Leave from 1420 hrs to 2359 hrs 27. Will not give us balance of Home Leave.
- 2 Aug 42 Leave to South Aust for week-end. Pay own fare.
- 2 Sep 42 £2 issue of cigarettes and tobacco.
- 4 Sep 42 Lieut Van Nooten, Florence, Hayter transferred to 15 Motor Regt.
- 17 Sep 42 Moved to area near canteen.
- 23 Sep 42 Reveille 0600 Ready on train at Mornington 0700 fairly crowded in train. Lunch at Spencer Street allowed up street for half an hour for a few drinks. 1800 hrs Shephardton for tea. Changed trains at Tocumwal at 2310 hrs fairly comfortable, six to carriage. Raced all units transferring stores.
- 24 Sep 42 Breakfast Narrandera 0526. Lunch Temora 1428, Tea Parkes 2146 hrs.
- 25 Sep 42 0836 Binnaway for breakfast fed by army rotten tucker. 1448 Werris Creek for lunch, allowed up street for a few drinks. Not keen on NSW beer. 2143 Armidale for tea. Arrived Glenn Innes 0243 hrs.
- 26 Sep 42 Not at all thrilled with new camp. Adj't not so hot. Nothing ready for us slept in two blankets, bitterly cold a bit of snow around. Won £7 on trip plus expenses. Rode M/Cycle to G.I. with telegrams for lads.
- 27 Sep 42 Began handing everything over, very busy. Have to tabulate everything. Working on my own.
- 30 Sep 42 Handed everything over and started work with Trg Sqn. Reveille 0600. Breakfast 0715, Parade 0800, Lunch 1215, Tea 1730. Cpls mess.
- 1 Oct 42 Visited G.I. Played billiards and went to pictured. Not terribly impressed with town. 7 hotel, 2 theaters, cafes galore good meals. Camp in good situation on hillside plenty of cover by gum trees.
- 4 Oct 42 Bought stretcher 10/- in very good order. Borrowed battery for light and a primus, quite comfortable.
- 13 Oct 42 Letter from Van asking for my transfer. I hope it will go through.
- 14 Oct 42 Meals very bad, we made a complaint, quite a shindy, all up on mat but meals have improved.
- 20 Oct 42 Cpls mess wiped, spent evening in G.I. went to pictures "Little Ned Kelly".
- 2 Nov 42 Pay Sgt sick. Took over job, swamped with work. Extract of all paybooks only 500 to do. Audited Sgts and Officers mess A/cs had several drinks to balance accounts. Van came up to see why my transfer had not gone through and to take me back but C.O. would not let me go as he said I did not belong to them and he could not agree to transfer.
- 6 Nov 42 Finished pay and acquitted this afternoon. Finished extracts.
- 13 Nov 42 H.Q. Trg Areas would not grant transfer so went the beer.

- 18 Nov 42 Sent urgent telegram to Van. Mick Millar went to Warwick today.
- 19 Nov 42 2 Summaries of Evidence and 2 courts of enquiries today.
- 24 Nov 42 2 Courts of Inquiry. Received telegram re Ian's wedding. Paraded to C.O. leave granted if I finish C of Is. Summary of Evidence for D.C.M. completed between 1400 - 1500 then packed and changed, left at 1400 hrs. Left all photographs behind. Caught train at 1615. Good trip.
- 25 Nov 42 Arrived Sydney 0900 proceeded to LTD like a mug. No train available until Friday night, granted leave to Sydney for 24 hrs. Met George Hayes and had night out with him. Stayed at Hotel Sydney. Rang Airways without any luck.
- 26 Nov 42 Reported back to LTD and pitched my story. S.M. gave me my leave pass and told me to get back the best way I could and to keep quiet. Went down to Railway Stn and chap at booking office reserved my seat right through to Adelaide without any priority. Booked luggage all the way.
- 27 Nov 42 0700 hrs Albury left steel helmet and hat in train, not feeling too well. Had to wait 1 hour for train. Examined "Spirit of Progress" while waiting. Arrived Melbourne 1430 hrs. Rang Uncle Mac to let him know I was on my way. Did not get call through until 1700 hrs.
- 28 Nov 42 Arrived Adelaide 0900hrs, very tired. Enjoyed wedding but was too tired to last out evening.
- 5 Dec 42 Went to Stirling to see Ian and Kath had quite a good time. Not feeling energetic enough to go out much.
- 6 Dec 42 Went for swim before lunch. Had attack of shivers, lasted about an hour.
- 9 Dec 42 Ian due to go to Darwin tomorrow. Went to dinner at Richmond. He had just received notice that he would most likely have to wait 10 days for transport owing to rains. They are very glad.
- 10 Dec 42 After a lot of badgering went to see Dr Pflaum. Only thing wrong was low blood pressure under the 100.
- 11 Dec 42 Reported to LTD. Major Black, brother-in-law of Mrs Frith, grabbed me and took me over to R.M. Verco who sent me to 101 A.G.H. not very happy.
- 12 Dec 42 Examined by Major Gunson. I do not think they will find anything wrong with me. Hope to be out soon. Weight 9 stone 4 lbs.
- 15 Dec 42 Overhaul by De Crespigny, Gunson and Lewis nothing wrong. X-ray on leg. Sleeping extremely well have to be woken for all meals.
- 17 Dec 42 X-ray on chest. Ian left last night.
- 18 Dec 42 Liver test - slightly down. Likely to be here for another fortnight. Vitamin B injections started. Given glass of beer before meals.
- 24 Dec 42 Xmas dinner, nothing special as on diet. C.O. presented beer. 3 men to each bottle.
- 25 Dec 42 Two of us left in ward rest had leave from 1200 hrs. Maj Lewis came round and took me home for dinner. Col Black (C.O. of hospital) drove us home and stayed to dinner. Returned to hospital 2100 hrs after very pleasant day. Col Black welcomed me back and asked if I had a good time very nice chap. No leave pass for trip. Still no chance of being caught out as I was driven back and forth from hospital. Drinking two glasses of stout per day. Feeling rather weak.
- 26 Dec 42 Drinking salt water is giving me an appetite. Well looked after egg nogs twice a day, orange drinks as often as I wish. Nurses and V.A.D's very nice. Weight 8 stone 11 lbs.
- 31 Dec 42 New Years Eve party. Beer, sherry, stout, crayfish. Saw New Year in.
- 1 Jan 43 Went to Lady Galway Convalescent Home. Leave in evening.
- 2 Jan 43 Leave all day.
- 7 Jan 43 Not feeling too good, resting.

- 29 Jan 43 Very hot day, went to hospital and was returned. Alora Kerr a teacher at Scotch driving.
- 2 Feb 43 Mary Pitchers engagement party.
- 26 Feb 43 Re-admitted to hospital.
- 3 Mar 43 De Crespigny sending me back to beach as only improving slowly. Weight 9 stone 2 lbs.
- 4 Mar 43 Admitted to Kapara. Plenty of red tape, not able to rest, plenty of leave and expected to go out.
- 5 Mar 43 Met Arthur Lewis had quite a good chat.
- 6 Mar 43 Met Muirhead and McGillivray.
- 7 Mar 43 Aunt Erisey's for evening. Met Phil Stokes and Jean Edwards on way home.
- 9 Mar 43 Barney Dorward and Ivo Schultz (just married). Went to Pitchers for party. Bill Cleland home on leave with fiancée.
- 1 Apr 43 Went to 101 AGH. Health much worse so returned to Lady Galway with Pituitary pills. Very pleased.
- 15 Apr 43 Reported to 101 AGH. Very pleased with progress, should be another month.
- 17 Apr 43 Party at Bill Cleland's, had marvellous time danced all evening without any dizziness.
- 29 Apr 43 Returned to hospital feeling better if rather inclined to sleep too much. Unable to be sent back to Lady Galway as ADMS had brought in rule that all personnel over a fortnight in a Con Home had to be approved by him. As I had not been boarded it was decided to keep it quiet else I would be out of army.
- 30 Apr 43 Week-end leave.
- 3 May 43 Caught 0630 train from Kirkaldy, arrived hospital 0745. Informed moving to Strath at 0900 but at 0845 told would not be going until evening. Not feeling too good. Travelled by ambulance to station then by train. Was very sick about 2000 and did not care at all what happened from then on.
- 4 May 43 Feeling a bit better spent day being examined etc and given quarters. Camp very clean should be quite O.K. Meals upsetting me a bit quite a job keeping them down.
- 5 May 43 Nice easy exercises short walk into town for morning tea and pies. Went for stroll around country side in afternoon. Sgt Wimpess O.C. Nursery Squad a decent chap. Used to be instructor at Weber, Shorthose and Rice. Went to pictures in evening.
- 6 May 43 Cricket match in afternoon. Only made 9 and had a successful day as keeper stumped two, caught one and should have stumped another. Bail was too securely fixed and although I moved the stumps two inches and knocked the ball out of my hands with force I was unable to move bail so lad was not out.
- 7 May 43 Feeling rather stiff but exercises and march helped considerably.
- 9 May 43 Went to Miss Haddy's for lunch (Glynn Pope's aunt) Very nice time.
- 10 May 43 Had a turn today increased dosage of pills.
- 13 May 43 Cricket today. 25 runs, quite a good game.
- 15 May 43 Went to town on leave. Saw "My Sister Eileen" Mrs Forsythe was staying at house.
- 16 May 43 Left home at 1500. Kept busy minding her children, locked me in sleepout. Went to Lady Galway for afternoon tea and had tea with Nan and caught 1845 train to Strathalbyn.
- 17 May 43 Went to Welch's circus. We marched to town at 1830 to drums and bugles. Needless to say we danced. Quite a fair show at the Town Hall community singing and trg pictures with an occasional cartoon. Orchestra rather good, piano, drums, violin and saxophone.
- 20 May 43 Received ration book from Mary Pitcher. Issued with Canteen Ration

- card - 2 ounces tobacco and 30 cigarettes per week.
- 23 May 43 Went to Miss Haddy's for lunch, returned to camp early to do washing.
- 24 May 43 Having a bit of trouble with back stayed in A3 for another week.
- 25 May 43 Went to town. Got lift in buckboard at 1730 to Mt Barker. Arrived Mt.B 1800 hrs had a few drinks and tea. Started walking towards Hahndorf. Got lift to Aldgate by a dentist. Arrived Aldgate 1840 too late for 1829 train. Thought next train did not leave until 1942 so tried to hitch-hike without success. Went back to station at 1910 and was lucky enough to catch S.E. train. Got out at Mitchem as did not have leave pass or ticket. Of course the guard would ask if I had a ticket but on being told "No" very kindly asked me if I knew where I was. Arrived in town at 2040 hrs. Had to do some homework for Jean when I arrived home. Met George Harris on tram, had quite a good chat.
- 26 May 43 Went to Wayville to see if leave was available. No news. Caught night train back to Strath with Uncle Mac (he is off to Victor Harbour for a fortnight holiday).
- 30 May 43 Went to Miss Haddy's for day with Glynn Pope.
- 31 May 43 Up to A2. Usual circus in evening, a very good picture show. Sent telegram to Ian.
- 6 Jun 43 Lunch in Strath again.
- 8 Jun 43 Al today only a week to go.
- 10 Jun 43 Ian arrived in town from Darwin spent 15 mins on phone to him and is going to Flinders N.D. on Friday evening.
- 11 Jun 43 Went for 20 mile route march to Langhorne's Creek and on return tried to get a lift to town in time to see Ian. No luck and had to catch train. Passed Ian's train at Mt Lofty but he was already in bed.
- 12 Jun 43 Returned to Strath in evening as there had been a bit of a blitz on weekend A.W.Ls.
- 15 Jun 43 Discharged from C.D. Good trip down played poker most of way. Arrived Wayville at 1245. Started proceedings to get my leave but held up by a stodgy Lt after having passed Majors and Captains. Got out on overnight leave at 1600. Went to Mary's 21st party. Dinner pictures "Fleet In" and then supper at Lewis's for supper. Caught 2400hrs train home.
- 16 Jun 43 Had teeth fixed. Dentists tried hard not to hurt but was working under difficulties as he had no light and the tooth was far back. Took 50 mins to extract one tooth. Tooth broke and was playing on nerve most of time. He had to call in reinfo to eventually get tooth out. Went to bed immediately after.
- 17 Jun 43 16 days leave granted at 1500 hrs went home for evening.
- 21 Jun 43 Went to Aunt Win's for tea and then on to Common Cause meeting. Kathy going to Melbourne. Townsend dropped in from Melbourne. Found Lisle Cornish manager of Metro. Hadn't seen him for about six years.
- 22 Jun 43 Wrote to Van. He may be able to do something shortly. Stayed home and tried to throw off cold. Helped Mother with washing.
- 24 Jun 43 Went to Theatre Royal with Ag. Saw "Wake up and Live" and "You are my Lucky Star" enjoyed the show thoroughly. Met Mr and Mrs Thomas at interval asked home for dinner Friday night.
- 25 Jun 43 Met Uncle at 1715. Geraldine and Mr Tempy at office. I did not remember a daughter. Had very nice time went home at 1030.
- 26 Jun 43 Went out to Ochernals for lunch, Granny, Aunty Gwen, Smiler and Mrs Greenwood present. Rang G and arranged to go to dance at Burnside. Enjoyed myself thoroughly at dance, quite proud of my partner. Party included Mr and Mrs Forbes, Mr and Mrs Asquith,

- Uncle Mac and Con. Saw old Orroroo identities at dance, Don Saunders, Max Field and Gwenda Daly. Stayed the night at Burnside.
- 27 Jun 43 Feeling very much at home and very sorry I had promised Mother I would be home for lunch. Saw Mr Dowling on way home and stopped for a yarn. Aunt Marie and Geraldine home for afternoon and tea.
- 28 Jun 43 Stayed home and looked after Nancy all day she was ill in bed and wanted to play rummy. Went to pictures in evening with Mary saw "Once Upon a Honeymoon".
- 29 Jun 43 Went to "Yankee Doodle Dandy" with G. went to her home for night. Very nice girl. Getting over shyness a bit.
- 30 Jun 43 Had lunch with Gilmores, saw Aunts Kath and Ida, Uncle Reg, Mrs Lillecrapp, Mrs Owen, Mr and Mrs Dunk quite a day.
- 1 Jul 43 Letter from Van transfer approved at last. Frith's for dinner.
- 2 Jul 43 2 prs of pyjamas as birthday present, very handy.
- 3 Jul 43 Called in to say goodbye to G. Went to Uncle Mac's for lunch and got lift back to town. Met Hugh McEwan in town and went out to Wayville with him. He gave me all papers immediately and the rest of the time was my own until the train went. Nearly tempted to go to the zoo but was not sure. Went home to tea. Mother, Uncle Mac and Ag saw me off. Quite a crowd at the station. Helen Bullock, Margaret Newland were on train had a good trip.
- 4 Jul 43 Arrived Melbourne 1000. Ian not at train. Had to report to LTD Royal Park. Found that I had caught up with draft that I had done my best to miss as I wanted a few days in Melbourne to see Ian. Due to leave 1200. Rang Uncle Ian and arranged for Ian to come to stn. Arrived Melbourne 1300. Ian managed to get on to stn and I saw him for 10 minutes. He brought me some fruit, came in very handy.
- 5 Jul 43 Arrived Sydney 0930, had breakfast and a walk around the stn and left again at 1130. Having quite a good trip. Hawkesbury river very pretty sight.
- 6 Jul 43 Arrived Sth Brisbane 1045. Engine derailed unable to draw into platform until 1145. Transferred to narrow gauge and went to Showgrounds. Found I could have disappeared at any time as my name was not on any roll. Wired Van and at 1600 hrs I was given orders to go to Caboolture that night. Train left Roma St 1745 I had some trouble finding stn. Arrived C. 1930 hrs reported to R.T.O. 2/9 Regt transported me to Bde. Arrived 2045 hrs.
- 7 Jul 43 Saw Van, he is off in a hurry and will be absent all day. I was given job helping Phil Stanborough. Worked fairly hard all day preparing screens for amphibious display. Camp on Deception Bay at a place called Toorbul Point. Trip tired me out somewhat.
- 10 Jul 43 Warned I will be going out on A.O. at Caloundra. Left camp at 1330. Saw Jock Irvine on way out he is in 2/6 Regt. Passed through some great country, trees very thick, hills of very curious shape. Spent afternoon wandering around in jeep watching shoots etc. Sam Burston and had a good yarn. Band concert in evening, also piper.
- 11 Jul 43 Saw Dick Blackburn, voice changed considerably. Our tanks went through their paces firing 37 mm and 75 mm by indirect firing the first time I had seen that done. Several fires started. Stunt very successful only three men wounded. A truck broke down in middle of track on way back to camp and I was detailed to move it missed some of the show. Rifle fire was passing over truck and I went to ground just as quick as the others. Eventually two Wkshop vans arrived and towed veh back to camp. Went to concert in Caloundra in evening very good show. One chap imitated Popeye and put over some very

- good jokes. Returned to camp and was home by 0100. Very cold trip back.
- 12 Jul 43 Found that my pyjama trousers had been lost but was lucky to find them hanging over a tree in the afternoon.
- 13 Jul 43 Stand down day. Put in a few photos did washing and wrote a few letters. Went to lecture on M.E., some very good slides of Syria, Palestine and Trans Jordanian.
- 17 Jul 43 Dick Blackburn payed visit today. Recd parcel of shortbread from Nan.
- 18 Jul 43 Had 3-ton truck signed over to me hadn't been cleaned since leaving Victoria three months ago. Went to Dodd's concert party, very good. Thelma Parkes a contortionist from Tiv Brisbane, Yank and Aussie comedians. Jokes a bit hot but new.
- 19 Jul 43 Working to 2300 hrs.
- 20 Jul 43 5 whiting for lunch, very nice change. Caught Koala bear and it is running around on lawn, very tame, first I have seen at close quarters.
- 21 Jul 43 Went to pictures at Caboolture "You're only Young Once".
- 22 Jul 43 Had arranged to go to Redcliffe for a dance tonight but David went to Hospital and I had to do his job. Not very disappointed.
- 24 Jul 43 Spent day on vehicle but did not make much headway.
- 25 Jul 43 Another day cleaning but still needs several days more.
- 26 Jul 43 Wal gone on leave so have to leave veh for a time.
- 28 Jul 43 Very busy typed 15 letters and 3 wax sheets between 1400/1600. Went to pictures at night Popeye cartoon "A date with a skate" and Henry Fonda in "What a Life". Entertaining.
- 29 Jul 43 Managed to pinch a chess set. Pictures "Footsteps in the Dark" with Errol Flynn. Good show.
- 30 Jul 43 Still very busy during day.
- 1 Aug 43 Two L.C.T.'s (Landing Craft Infantry) arrived back from Munda and Rendova islands today. Look like corvettes.
- 2 Aug 43 Lecture on Jap captured equipment. Went to pictures at C. June Frazee in "Almost Married" and "Next of Kin". Excellent programme.
- 4 Aug 43 Extremely busy packing up for move. Left T 1014 and arrived at new area 1200. Now only 2 3/4 miles from C. on bitumen road. Cakes from Mother and Con.
- 6 Aug 43 Walked to C. saw "This Man is Dangerous" and "It ain't Hay" a good evening.
- 7 Aug 43 Stand down day, rained all day, washed all clothes together and of course dye ran in pyjamas. Very cold so had a sleep in afternoon.
- 9 Aug 43 Went for drive in Jeep.
- 10 Aug 43 Very busy - 18 pages of wax sheets and selected timber for shelves.
- 11 Aug 43 Working flat out, raining again, bought 6 lbs of cake for 7/-.
- 13 Aug 43 Went to Brisbane to get stencils run off. Left camp 0715 arrived Brisbane 0900. Went to Victoria Barracks left stencils with Sgt Joan Woolley then went to Brisbane to have a look around. A big crowd in town, raffles and golden casket predominate. Went to see "Star Spangled Rhythm" and enjoyed the show very much allowed to smoke in theatres. Picked up work at 1510 and had good trip back.
- 14 Aug 43 Given 3 pineapples for the job I had done.
- 16 Aug 43 Found out Peggy and Charlie are living in Brisbane. Been very busy
- 17 Aug 43 Rumour we are going to N.G. Very muggy, rain.
- 18 Aug 43 Shirts and A.F.V.'s dyed green.
- 20 Aug 43 Tip that we will be off by end of next month. David went on 12 days leave.
- 21 Aug 43 Van's tent caught alight and we had a grand time rescuing clothes and extinguishing flames. Van lost about £60 worth of private gear. His paybook and £2 left in pocket of shirt that was nearly all burnt

except for the pocket. Ammunition exploding all the time but managed to get most of it out of the way. An exciting time had by all. I had to laugh at chaps who were only watching, they all dived for cover when amn started exploding. Worked late at night typing D.C.M. Sgt very lucky I thought evidence was enough to convict him.

- 22 Aug 43 Finished D.C.M. Supposed to be going to get x-rayed tomorrow but as I have a D.C.M. to do and it will be a full days job I will not be going.
- 23 Aug 43 D.C.M. typing as word is spoken not much chance of a spell as I have to sort out what witnesses are trying to say. Hours 0900 - 1015, 1030 - 1200, 1205 - 1245, 1330 - 1500, 1515 - 1645, court adjourned until tomorrow. I had typing to do when I finished at O.R.
- 24 Aug 43 Continued with D.C.M. Finished at 1700, 42 pages of typing. Lad got 90 days and £10 fine.
- 25 Aug 43 Slack day, went to pictures in evening saw "Sullivan's Travels" with Veronica Lake only a fair show.
- 31 Aug 43 Went to Brisbane in truck, arrived 1000, rang Charlie, not at home. Had a few spots then had lunch and did some shopping. Rang C again and went out to her home. Alistair away. Arrived 1600 and just taking my coat off when Mr Martin arrived and took us over to his place for dinner. Had a very enjoyable time. Mr Martin had been in Lae, Salamaua, Rabaul etc for over 20 years. Had some very interesting snaps. Played bridge. Returned to Union Jack Hostel for night.
- 1 Sep 43 Called at 0600, shave and shower, breakfast 0645 caught train at 0820. Arrived C. 1150. Opened 31 oz tin of Asparagus for supper, very nice.
- 5 Sep 43 Raining for several days, should be leaving by next Sat.
- 7 Sep 43 Went to Brisbane at 0530 to get X-rayed at Redbank 15 miles south of B. Called in to see Charlie not at home. Went in to town and had lunch with Eric Rouse and Max Rowlands at Acacia cafe, three beers with very nice lunch. Bought 8 stretchers. Went out to Charlie's not at home so walked over to Peggy's. Both Charlie and Peggy were there could only stay 30 mins. Arrived in Brisbane 1630 to find truck waiting for me so sent party back to camp and went off to meet Eric and Max had tea and went to pictures. Saw "Secret Mission". Excellent show. Arrived back in camp 2345 hrs.
- 8 Sep 43 Kit bags go to kit store, sent album home.
- 9 Sep 43 Sent Pass Book home issued with a blanket and mosquito nets etc. Celebrations tonight. Good roast dinner followed by junket, jelly and ice-cream. 28 gals of beer and pies and pasties. I did not stay for latter.
- 10 Sep 43 Some panic today anyone would think the war had ended. Went to pictures "He's my Guy" with Joan Davis and "Arabian Nights".
- 11 Sep 43 Spent day cleaning truck and greasing.
- 12 Sep 43 Another day on truck, suffering from kerosene poisoning had spell in OR.
- 13 Sep 43 Finished getting worst of mud off.
- 14 Sep 43 Made shelves for truck. Had to bore holes with heated nails. Played chess in evening.
- 15 Sep 43 Very hot. Band concert at night Band includes some Aust champs and a world champ cornetist. Some lads on 1/2 hours notice.
- 17 Sep 43 Heavy hailstorms at least 1/2 inch in diameter. Move cancelled
- 18 Sep 43 Rumour leave is due. Heard story of N.G. farce. Lae captured where 20,000 Japs were expected only 2,000 were there and most of them escaped. Barges which were believed to be bringing troops in were actually taking them out. C in C holding news back for several days.

- One Liberator blew up on landing ground at Milne Bay, killing 400 troops. Lucky the remainder of the planes did not get blown up.
- 20 Sep 43 Brig gave reasons for not going to N.G. and promised home leave. NSW and Vic are certain but S.A. rather difficult owing to transport shortage.
- 21 Sep 43 Very hot day so went to Caloundra with Capt Bice. Had a good surf. Worked to 2400 hrs when returned.
- 22 Sep 43 Started work 0600 and finished job by 0700. Rest day, slept. Pictures in evening "A Yank in Dutch" and "Foreign Agent" good show.
- 23 Sep 43 Phil went on leave, Fred on leave. B.M.'s clerk fairly easy time most of work at night.
- 25 Sep 43 1000 hrs phone call granting S.A. leave. Leaving 0545 hrs Monday morning. Should be home by Thursday.
- 26 Sep 43 Nearly had leave cancelled but managed to persuade B.M. that O.R. could handle his work. Very close until 1300 and then packed.
- 27 Sep 43 Reveille 0400. Breakfast 0440, On trucks 0515 Arrived Caboolture 3 minutes before train left. Left C 0540. Arrived South Brisbane 0800 transhipped and off by 0840. Casino 1310 - 1325 for lunch, cut lunches, not bad. Coff's Harbour 1725 - 1825. Very beautiful harbour. Played poker most of day won £2.
- 28 Sep 43 0630 - 0800 Gosford for breakfast. Ray Owen threw my shaving brush out of window of train accidentally. I had had it for 8 years. Moss Vale 1300 - 1400. Hardin 1745 - 1845. Albury 2325 and changed trains.
- 29 Sep 43 0130 left Albury. Melbourne 0700 - 0800. Travelling in first class carriage very comfortable. Arrarat 1315 - 1415. Serviceton 1745 - 1830.
- 30 Sep 43 0100 Goodwood. Detained and marched to Wayville in bed by 0200. Lads too noisy for me to get much sleep. Up at 0400. Leave pass issued 0830. Went home for bath and sleep and back in town for evening. Geraldine away at Broken Hill but I was told she had missed me quite a bit. Going to give her a surprise on Tuesday.
- 12 Oct 43 Leave extended further 14 days. Very pleased as Geraldine had spent weekend at Victor and I would have most likely have missed her.
- 24 Oct 43 Spent day at Yankalilla. Left home 0615 and took Geraldine down. Had glorious day. Arrived back 2000 hrs
- 26 Oct 43 Reported LTD 1245 hrs hoping to see Hugh but he was too busy and I did not see him until 1500 hrs and he gave me my leave pass immediately. Got told off for not approaching him earlier. Took Geraldine to pictures and stayed the night.
- 27 Oct 43 Awoke 0530 hrs. G. very kindly cooked me some breakfast. Left 0620 LTD 0710. Left LTD 0900. Goodwood 0945. Murray Bridge 1230, Serviceton 1845.
- 28 Oct 43 Seymour 0800 Albury 1300, Cootamundra 1750. Playing poker most of way having a successful time. Already £5 up on trip.
- 29 Oct 43 Newcastle 0700, Taree 1330, Kempsey 1720. We stopped at Coff's Harbour for about 10 minutes and Danny and Brick tore up to the town and threw some stones through two plate glass windows of a hotel which had sold them some bad wine on down trip.
- 30 Oct 43 Clapham 0500 - 1000 Caboolture 1215 very tired of trip. Moving to Southport on Wednesday. My truck had caught alight while I had been away but only damaged front near side tyre and the light wires.
- 2 Nov 43 Slight attack of 'flu not feeling very fast.
- 3 Nov 43 Reveille 0400, breakfast 0530, packed by 0730. Had to carry Refrigerator from officers mess in the back of my truck. Must have had somewhere near 8 tons on my veh. Left 0915. Drove through Brisbane at 1030. Very bad trip as we were travelling too slow,

- mostly bottom and 2nd gear. Arrived Southport 1440. Finished work 2000 hrs. Not a bad camp except for mosquitos. Slept in open.
- 4 Nov 43 Burned grass around truck and kept fairly busy all day. Played chess in evening. Slept in open, rained 2300.
- 7 Nov 43 Heavy rain. No cigarettes. Played chess in evening
- 8 Nov 43 Fairly busy. Letter from G. Sunny day.
- 10 Nov 43 Went to Surfer's Paradise for day. Had swim and sun-bathed until lunch. Very nice lunch, fish and chips plenty of bread, butter and jam. Proprietress gave us a piece of cake each. Cost of meal 2/9. Went for swim after lunch. Had a bit of trouble swimming against surf until I got to sand bar. Impossible to walk out. The sand bar rose very steeply something like five feet in two. Surfing extra good but after a few of the lads started to get into trouble decided to come in before I got caught. Just as I was leaving Clarrie Rake got into trouble and I gave him a bit of help and was rather done up by the time I finished. I tried to get back to the bar but had too much trouble and nearly got into trouble myself. Lifesavers only had to bring in one lad who had panicked. Sun-bathed for a while but wind got too cold so dressed and went for a walk up the street. Went to small zoo behind hotel. The entrance was very pretty through tropical plants. A fair collection of animals although monkeys predominated. Three white cockatoos greet one on entrance saying "Did you enjoy your swim?". Collection of mawcaws very pretty. Performing animals at 1515 hrs daily but was too late for show. I will have to go again as they are supposed to be very good.
- 11 Nov 43 Had foot sliced around a bit and was fairly sore. Some talk of having radium treatment if not successful. Received papers from G. Armistice ceremony rather impressive. 4 drummers and 4 buglers. Pictures in evening saw "Boston Blackie" and "Tillie and Roiler". Show was late in starting and did not finish until 2300.
- 12 Nov 43 Lazy day everyone at shoot. Foot easier and only needs dressings.
- 13 Nov 43 Fd Security in accident. WOII Bob Hesketh killed buried today. Hit by Yanks who were drunk and had stolen a truck and were driving without lights on the wrong side of the road.
- 14 Nov 43 Wet day. Very busy. Bed at 1800.
- 15 Nov 43 Still raining and very busy.
- 17 Nov 43 0330 woke up in middle of terrific rainstorm. All my clothes wet except pyjamas, underwear and shorts. Water rushing through tent at least 2" deep. Tent was one of the few that stood up to the strain. A fair bit of damage was done around the camp several trees fell on tents. Rained all day but managed to rinse all my clothing. Rum issue in evening. Dug good deep trenches around tent and should not be troubled any more with washaways. Feeling off colour last few days.
- 18 Nov 43 Saw M.O. who put me on a new treatment. Only 23" of rain in past few days.
- 19 Nov 43 Sun shining and got most of clothing dry.
- 21 Nov 43 Fine morning but rained again in afternoon. Played 500 in evening.
- 22 Nov 43 Maintenance on truck. Letter from G.
- 23 Nov 43 Maintenance on truck. Decided to jack truck up and put on blocks. Just missed dropping truck on foot, but eventually succeeded with job. Concert in evening, rather poor but saved by male artists. Played 500 after and went to bed 2315.
- 24 Nov 43 Slept in until 1130. No water to do washing. Picture "I want a Divorce".
- 25 Nov 43 Heavy storm about 1845 quite a time keeping office dry. Head still aching and have started new medicine.

- 26 Nov 43 Letter and tin of meringues from G. Very nice.
- 27 Nov 43 Severe headache and have to be doped. Don't know much about the days.
- 30 Nov 43 Evacuated to M.D.S. with Sinus.
- 1 Dec 43 Issue of cigarettes. Must write to G. Cake arrived from Mac. Not feeling very fast. Still sore in head.
- 7 Dec 43 Discharged from hospital.
- 8 Dec 43 Slept all day pictures in evening "Son of Fury". Drove to Burleigh after pictures, beautiful evening.
- 9 Dec 43 Rose at 0800 not feeling too good. 48 English Army officers attached from India. Some good names Hay-Drummond-Hay and Hilpott-Green. Working hard all day feeling rather flat.
- 10 Dec 43 Very Busy, band concert in evening rather good.
- 11 Dec 43 Issue of shorts. Van back from Melbourne.
- 12 Dec 43 Feeling better. M.O. talking of boarding me. Pictures at night "The villian still pursued her" and "The Saint at Palm Springs". Had bad turn in bed. Arms and legs felt as heavy as lead, headache and very low and slow pulse.
- 14 Dec 43 Feeling better, got up today. Very muggy.
- 15 Dec 43 Pictures Charlie McCarthy and Eddie Bergin in "Look who's Laughing". Generator would not start so pictures cancelled.
- 16 Dec 43 Feeling dizzy stayed in bed until 1100. Muggy weather still persists. Parcel from G.
- 17 Dec 43 Raining again. Not feeling very well. Letter and papers.
- 19 Dec 43 Saw M.O. new treatment and if I do not improve I will be boarded.
- 22 Dec 43 Went for walk in Southport had tea, fish and fruit salad, returned to camp for pictures "Man from Dakota" and "Road to Singapore". Shorts included "Popeye", "Our Gang", "Crime does not pay" and "Travelgab". Show ended 1135.
- 24 Dec 43 Very busy in afternoon.
- 25 Dec 43 Reveille 0700. Fish and poached eggs for breakfast. Working very hard only one on duty. Dinner sent up to me. Turkey and plum pudding and plenty of it. Working very hard. Tea ham and salad, ice cream and fruit salad. Wireless going all day opposite me which made work a little easier.
- 26 Dec 43 Suffering badly from Haemorrhoids, rested all day. Had shower in evening and dropped shower bucket on head. Had stitches inserted by Col Janes who did a very rough job. Cut only about 2 inches long.
- 29 Dec 43 Feeling much better and managed to work until 1400 when had to go to bed. Raining again.
- 30 Dec 43 Stayed in bed all day. Read "For Whom the Bells Toll". Played Monopoly until 2330.
- 31 Dec 43 Up today and just fooled around.
- 1 Jan 44 Stitch out, at MDS all morning. Very busy in afternoon. Slept from 1600 - 1730 then raised side of tent making plenty of room inside.
- 2 Jan 44 Spent day jacking truck up. Got some bad blisters, must be getting soft. Played bridge in evening.
- 3 Jan 44 Wrote letters all day.
- 5 Jan 44 Did washing but could not get clothes dry enough to go to town. Pictures in evening "The officer and the Lady" and "Ellery Queen and the Murder Ring".
- 8 Jan 44 Warning that a cyclone is due. Went to pictures in Southport saw "My Gal Sal" and selected shorts. Raining and got soaked.
- 10 Jan 44 Head a bit sore, trying to catch up with my mail.
- 12 Jan 44 Great day for a rest day. Did washing in morning and went for swim in the baths in the afternoon. Tried to do some shopping but nothing in

- Southport to buy. Returned to camp after tea and had a few beers. Pictures Ronald Coleman in "The Light that Failed".
- 14 Jan 44 Went to Southport in evening and saw "Road to Morocco" and "High Explosive" and "Mickey Mouse". Sent meringue tin home. Going to P.T Area next week.
- 15 Jan 44 Sent cake tins home to G and Mother. Rec'd cake and letter from G. Very busy and very hot.
- 16 Jan 44 Very hot, few drinks and a game of poker in evening.
- 18 Jan 44 O.C. Party to P.T. Area. Driven down to Burleigh very pleased as I did not feel like walking. Had swim in evening.
- 19 Jan 44 0605 coffee, 0615 swim, 0730 breakfast, 0815 parade, 0900 P.T., 1030 swim, 1230 lunch. 1400 P.T., Unarmed Combat and Medicine Ball, 1530 swim.
- 20 Jan 44 P.T. much harder, raining slightly. 50% down with diarrhoea. Had heavy fall in afternoon on back.
- 21 Jan 44 Not feeling too well. Played baseball in afternoon.
- 22 Jan 44 Not well, urine red sent to hospital.
- 23 Jan 44 No signs of kidney bruising only a general shaking up. Discharged from M.D.S.
- 26 Jan 44 Feeling much better and got up. Went to 50-50 concert party in evening. A very good show, all men of American and Australian forces. Female impersonators very good. Ballet dancing, juggler, magician, singers, tap-dancing, jitterbugging, 18 piece orchestra, bagpipes and general fooling. Continuity very good. 2 1/2 hrs bright entertainment as good as if not better than Tiv standard. "Hill Billy" session very well done and very humorous. Eccentric dancer good.
- 27 Jan 44 Pictures "The Gay Caballero" and "The Night before the Divorce".
- 28 Jan 44 Rained all day. Very easy day.
- 1 Feb 44 Still raining and now very muggy. Experiment on exploding a drum of petrol by gelignite was rather interesting.
- 2 Feb 44 Fine morning but started to rain at 1100. Slept all day and went to flat in evening. Read and listened to the wireless.
- 3 Feb 44 Very busy. Rumours that we are off to Europe, Embarkation leave at end of March. Got mixed up with the beer after tea and played two-up. Won £12 and went to bed at 0300.
- 5 Feb 44 Lieut Windley killed last night. Jeep turned over.
- 6 Feb 44 Went into Moss Vale read and listened to the wireless. Van in hospital at Port Moresby very ill. I had chance of transfer to Pay Corps but missed owing to his absence.
- 8 Feb 44 Stinking hot day. Thousands of mosquitoes.
- 11 Feb 44 Hot weather still continuing with mosquitoes. Played two-up and won about £5.
- 12 Feb 44 Went for a drive tonight 96 miles. Nerang - Upper Nerang - across NSW border in the middle of the range - Numinbah - Chillingham - Murwillanbah (2350 and had coffee and scones) - Coolangatta - Tweed Heads - Burleigh - Camp 0130. Very rough trip down.
- 16 Feb 44 Drove to Brisbane had lunch at Lady Bowen Hostel and returned to camp by 1620. Did washing after tea. Hostel very nice, hot showers, swimming pool, several lounges and a four course meal for 1/6.
- 19 Feb 44 Went driving left camp 1910 - Beenleigh - Canungra - Nerang - Tweed Heads - bed 0130.
- 20 Feb 44 Left Tweed Heads 0800 - Nerang - Boundary gate - Murwillumbah and along back road to camp. Went to Tweed Heads for a swim. Concert at night very good.
- 29 Feb 44 Razors arrived from Mother. Parcel was broken but fortunately all razors were there. Parcel of nuts and raisins etc. from G.

- 1 Mar 44 Walked into flat at 1330. Met two boys returning from school and they were full of questions. Would not believe I was single as only married men are allowed in army. On way home I was called into a house to eject a drunken airmen who was frightening the children. Took me about 1/2 hour.
- 2 Mar 44 Had rather curious dream. Doctor was looking down my throat and an old man was diving around trying to look and getting in the way. The M.O. kicked him out and picked up pepper pot and shook it three times down my throat saying poor chap ulcers.
- 6 Mar 44 Another queer dream. Phil and I up on assault and murder charge. Court held in camera. Sentence - one month in Ashfield hospital and five weeks in Con Camp. The whole proceedings very clear. Even the surprise on Phil's face.
- 7 Mar 44 2/9 due at Atherton by end of April. 1 Tk Bn returning, 2/6 to W.A. 2/5 and 2/7 due here. Went to town for tea and pictures "You were never lovelier" and "One night in the Tropics" both good for their type.
- 8 Mar 44 Very easy day until 1630 when 5 pages of foolscap arrived to be typed before tea. Finished at 1750 but too tired to write.
- 9 Mar 44 Played cards in evening. Too wet to go to flat.
- 11 Mar 44 Very busy day. Did not finish until 1730. Went to flat for tea and on to pictures. "Stage door Canteen".
- 12 Mar 44 Very busy morning. Not too well in p.m., had sleep and felt a little better. Managed to get pipe tobacco.
- 15 Mar 44 Went to Mr Pikes for dinner. Real bush family. Treated very well. Some good O.P. rum and driven back to camp.
- 17 Mar 44 2 letters, 2 magazines and tin of meringues from G.
- 18 Mar 44 Very heavy rain. As usual got soaked.
- 19 Mar 44 Wrote ten page letter to G. Read "Soldiers from the Wars Returning" by Jerrard Tickell. Still raining.
- 20 Mar 44 Fairly busy day. Played 500 in evening. Made rather good break to finish from -480 to out while opponents stayed at 450.
- 22 Mar 44 Extremely busy. Went to flat at night stayed overnight.
- 23 Mar 44 Up at 0900, cleaned house out. Read during afternoon and went to town for tea. Nothing to eat so bought weetbix and rolls. Two chaps drowned today at Stradbroke Is. 4 of them had been fishing in river when boat was caught in current and washed out to sea. One chap swam to a tree and held on until rescued just before the tree gave way. Other three were washed out to sea and when boat was smashed by surf one managed to swim to a log and held on until rescued. The best swimmer of them all stayed with the non-swimmer just in case he could help but neither have been seen since.
- 24 Mar 44 2/6 moved out. Got rather tight and played poker. Amazingly won £3.
- 25 Mar 44 Busy day on typewriter.
- 29 Mar 44 Dinner and pictures "Small town Girl" and "San Antonio Rose". Raining nearly every day.
- 30 Mar 44 Lovely sunny day but working too hard to appreciate it. Pictures across road. Kay Keyser and John Barrymore in "Playmates".
- 1 Apr 44 Typed 11 wax sheets this afternoon. Feeling rather low.
- 4 Apr 44 Security's second birthday. 20 galls beer very good night and feeling very bright.
- 5 Apr 44 Extremely well. Concert tonight "Boomerang Concert Party" Comedians and swing orchestra very good.
- 6 Apr 44 Moved tent. Spent all day digging and filling in holes. A few blisters. Issued with another two blankets. Parade today while police searched for chap who raped 12 1/2 year old girl. Unsuccessful.
- 8 Apr 44 Very busy day. Report on Couche and Ferris (drowned).
- 9 Apr 44 Another busy day.

- 10 Apr 44 Busy again, all members ill and only representative. Did not finish work until 1910. Cake from G.
- 14 Apr 44 Pikes for dinner. Couple of Scotch whiskeys. Played cards and home at 9 o'clock.
- 15 Apr 44 Wal gone to hospital. Fred down for a few days.
- 17 Apr 44 Lancaster flew over very low.
- 19 Apr 44 Fred back for morning only but he arranged for Ray Robinson from 2/4 to come and help. Official opening of new hospital tonight.
- 21 Apr 44 Beautiful rest day. Read "Love is Hell" by Gilbert Anstruther. Bought "Soldier from the Wars Returning".
- 1 May 44 David back from leave.
- 2 May 44 Manicure set bought.
- 7 May 44 Photo arrived safely. It's lovely. Razors arrived.
- 8 May 44 Played football. Got a bad knock on nose and neck very sore. A good game and I enjoyed it. We won by 4 goals and 3 behinds.
- 9 May 44 Think a cold is brewing. Feeling very heavy in head and effects of exercise. Nose and neck very sore.
- 18 May 44 Day in the hotel. Played poker in the pm and finished 3d up on the day.
- 19 May 44 Received 2 letters and telegram. Present liked. Celebrated too well to be able to write respectably.
- 21 May 44 Calling for officers with Africa Star to go to England to take over training of P.O.W. Second front very close.
- 22 May 44 Cake arrived. Calling for volunteers for Para Bn.- not interested. Van due any day now.
- 27 May 44 Heavy explosions by RAE cleaning up area.
- 3 Jun 44 Sick today so stayed in bed.
- 6 Jun 44 Rumour Second Front opened.
- 11 Jun 44 Conjunctivitis in both eyes. Being treated and already feel better.
- 12 Jun 44 G. ill with chill.
- 14 Jun 44 T.A.B. needle. Having sleep in afternoon to recover from effect and when woken up walked out of tent just as Bob Hiller kicked a football. The ball caught me in face and knocked out. He was close enough to catch me as I fell. A very nice black eye but not sore. I was too busy laughing to worry.
- 23 Jun 44 Military Mission 222 arrives.
- 25 Jun 44 W.O. 2/4 Regt to N.G. Very busy day. Dinner in town.
- 27 Jun 44 Graham Irwin back from N.G. looking well.
- 28 Jun 44 Pikes for dinner.
- 3 Jul 44 Town for dinner. "Dubarry was a lady"
- 4 Jul 44 Opening of mess hut. Pork and good meal, free beer. Did not partake on duty.
- 6 Jul 44 "Buck Privates" good show with fair support.
- 7 Jul 44 G's parcel arrived.
- 8 Jul 44 Six Div Concert Party as good as of old.
- 14 Jul 44 Thrilled with shaving set. Just what I wanted. Best present I have ever received. Nine letters and three telegrams. First sunny day for some time. Saw "My Favourite Blonde".
- 20 Jul 44 Visit from C-in-C.
- 24 Jul 44 David left for 2/4 AAR.
- 25 Jul 44 Phil left for War Office Trials.
- 6 Aug 44 DCM tomorrow. Chap pinched truck, drove to Sydney from Glen Innes. Escaped arrest - twice. Rather interested to see what he gets.
- 7 Aug 44 2 yrs H.L. and discharge. Quite fair.
- 10 Aug 44 7 Div off again.
- 13 Aug 44 May get job as O.R. Sgt Amph. show. Not very keen.
- 14 Aug 44 2/4 to move on 17th.
- 16 Aug 44 Move cancelled as too many rumours. Chaps won't learn.

- 20 Aug 44 2/4 off. Move kept very quiet.
- 26 Aug 44 Going to leave in Oct if nothing unforeseen happens.
- 12 Sep 44 Looks as if I am off to war again, 1 Aust Corps. Hope it doesn't interfere with my leave.
- 14 Sep 44 Getting quite used to swotting and doing a fair amount.
- 18 Sep 44 Can't stand down, have to wait until job is finished. Bice won't settle down and finish it.
- 20 Sep 44 At last job is completed. S.D. tomorrow.
- 21 Sep 44 Glorious day spent sunbathing.
- 25 Sep 44 S.D. just slept and went to Pike's in evening. Mr Pike just back from hospital. His eye was not success. Ann's birthday yesterday. We did a fair amount of celebrating and rather punished the rum. Was very bright when arrived back in camp.
- 30 Sep 44 Managed to get 2/5 regimental list finished. Being held up by Bisby who spends half his time on his spine. Especially when S.C. not handy. Rather getting my goat. Was hoping to see "The Great Waltz" but messed up. It is now showing tonight and I had altered my duty night. Wouldn't it.